

SATIRE XIV

plurima sunt, Fuscine, et fama digna sinistra
 [et quod maiorum uitia sequiturque minores]
 et nitidis maculam haesuram figentia rebus,
 quae monstrant ipsi pueris traduntque parentes.
 si damnosa senem iuuat alea, ludit et heres
 bullatus paruoque eadem mouet arma fritillo. 5
 nec melius de se cuiquam sperare propinquo
 concedet iuuenis, qui radere tubera terrae,
 boletum condire et eodem iure natantis
 mergere ficedulas didicit nebulone parente
 et cana monstrante gula. cum septimus annus 10
 transierit puerum, nondum omni dente renato,
 barbatus licet admoueas mille inde magistros,
 hinc totidem, cupiet lauto cenare paratu
 semper et a magna non degenerare culina.
 quid suadet iuueni laetus stridore catenae, 23
 quem mire adficiunt inscripta, ergastula, carcer? 24
 mitem animum et mores modicis erroribus aequos 15
 praecipit utque animas seruorum et corpora nostra
 materia constare putet paribusque elementis,
 an saeuire docet Rutilus, qui gaudet acerbo
 plagarum strepitu et nullam Sirena flagellis

1 plurima *mss.*: plurime *Sangallensis*

1A *om. PFU, del. Calderinus* uitia *mss.*: uitio *AGK* sequitur *codd.*: sequimur
K

3 haesuram *POT*: ac rugam *Φ*: esuram *O*

7 concedet *F*: concedit *Φ*

9 ficedulas *mss.*: ficellas *Lachmann*

11 puerum *PAU*: puero *Φ*

23–24 *ante 15 posuit Housman.*

24 inscripta *codd.*: inscripti *Richards*

16 animas *PAFU*: animo *Φ*. utque putet *Buecheler*: atque...putat *codd.*:
atque...pari *Wakefield*

18 Rutilus *P²OTU*: rutilus *P¹*: rutulus *cett.*

19 strepitu *codd.*: crepitu *Broukhusius*

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Fuscinus, there are very many things which both deserve a bad
reputation
[because the younger generation follow the vices of their elders] [1A]
and which will stick a black mark on a brilliant life –
things which parents themselves demonstrate and hand
on to their children.
If an old man enjoys pernicious gambling, then his heir plays too
while he's still a child, and shoves the same dice in his tiny shaker. 5
Nor will a young man let any of his relatives have any higher
hopes for him
if he has learned to scrape truffles,
to marinade mushrooms and to sink fig-peckers,
swimming in the same *jus*, following the example of his
useless father
and his white-haired gullet. When his seventh year has 10
passed the boy by, and all his teeth have not yet regrown,
you can bring in a thousand bearded tutors for him on this side
and on that – he will still always want to dine in sumptuous style
and not let his standards slip from your *haute cuisine*.
What sort of influence is exercised over a youth by someone
who loves the clanking 23
of chain, who finds branding, holding cells, prison all very
much to his taste? 24
Is it a gentle spirit and a way of life which is proportionate
towards minor offences 15
which he teaches him? and that he should think that slaves'
bodies share our own
make-up and are made of equivalent atomic elements?
or rather is it brutality which Rutilus teaches as he takes his
pleasure in the painful
noise of beatings and cannot find a Siren to compare to the
song of the lash,

comparat, Antiphates trepidi laris ac Polyphemus, 20
 tunc felix, quotiens aliquis tortore uocato
 uritur ardenti duo propter lintea ferro?
 rusticus expectas ut non sit adultera Largaе 25
 filia, quae numquam maternos dicere moechos
 tam cito nec tanto poterit contexere cursu
 ut non ter deciens respiret? conscia matri
 uirgo fuit, ceras nunc hac dictante pusillas
 implet et ad moechum dat eisdem ferre cinaedis. 30
 sic natura iubet: uelocius et citius nos
 corrumpunt uitiorum exempla domestica, magnis
 cum subeant animos auctoribus. unus et alter
 forsitan haec spernant iuuenes, quibus arte benigna
 et meliore luto finxit praecordia Titan, 35
 sed reliquos fugienda patrum uestigia ducunt
 et monstrata diu ueteris trahit orbita culpae.
 abstineas igitur damnandis. huius enim uel
 una potens ratio est, ne crimina nostra sequantur
 ex nobis geniti, quoniam dociles imitandis 40
 turpibus ac prauis omnes sumus, et Catilinam
 quocumque in populo uideas, quocumque sub axe,
 sed nec Brutus erit Bruti nec auunculus usquam.
 nil dictu foedum uisusque haec limina tangat
 intra quae pater est. procul, a procul inde puellae 45
 lenonum et cantus pernoctantis parasiti.
 maxima debetur puero reuerentia, si quid

25 expectas Φ : expectat *F*.

30 moechum *PU*: moechos Φ

33 subeant Φ : subeunt *P Vat. Pal. 1701* animos Φ : animis *P'*

38–39 damnandis...est *del. Braund*

38 damnandis huius enim *POU*: damnis huiusce etenim Φ

43 usquam Φ : umquam *PSU*

45 pater *PΦΣ*: puer *A* est *codd.*: es *Cramer* inde *codd.*: ite *Markland*

he the Antiphates and the Polyphemus of his trembling household, 20
 only happy at those times when the torturer has been
 summoned and somebody
 is being burned with the blazing iron for the sake of two towels?
 Do you expect – you moron – that Larga’s daughter is not
 going to 25
 commit adultery? This girl can never list her mother’s lovers
 so fast nor string them together at such a pace
 that she does not need to draw breath thirty times. While still
 unwed she was
 her mother’s go-between. At her mother’s dictation she now
 fills up
 the wax-tablets and hands them over to the same perverts
 to give to her own lover. 30
 This is what nature commands: bad role-models at home
 corrupt us
 more speedily and quickly, since they come from powerful
 influences to steal into our souls. One or two young men
 might reject this behaviour perhaps – young men whose
 hearts were fashioned
 with kindly skill and from superior mud by the Titan – 35
 but the rest are led along in the footsteps of their fathers –
 a course which they ought to flee from –
 and the wheel-rut of bad behaviour which has been shown us
 for years drags us along its path.
 For this reason you should resist behaving badly, and there
 is one convincing
 reason why – to stop those we give birth to from following
 our offences, since we are all of us impressionable in copying 40
 what is immoral and base. You could see a Catiline
 in any race of people, under any sky,
 but there will nowhere be found a Brutus or a Brutus’ uncle.
 Let nothing vile in word or sight touch the threshold
 which has a father inside. Get away with you, get away
 from here, girls 45
 of pimps and the singing of the all-night party-crawler.
 The greatest respect is owed to a child. If you are planning
 anything

turpe paras, ne tu pueri contempseris annos,
 sed peccaturo obstet tibi filius infans.
 nam si quid dignum censoris fecerit ira 50
 quandoque et similem tibi se non corpore tantum
 nec uultu dederit, morum quoque filius et qui
 omnia deterius tua per uestigia peccet,
 corripies nimirum et castigabis acerbo
 clamore ac post haec tabulas mutare parabis. 55
 unde tibi frontem libertatemque parentis,
 cum facias peiora senex uacuumque cerebro
 iam pridem caput hoc uentosa cucurbita quaerat?
 hospite uenturo cessabit nemo tuorum.
 ‘uerre pauimentum, nitidas ostende columnas, 60
 arida cum tota descendat aranea tela,
 hic leue argentum, uasa aspera tergeat alter.’
 uox domini furit instantis uirgamque tenentis.
 ergo miser trepidas, ne stercore foeda canino
 atria displiceant oculis uenientis amici, 65
 ne perfusa luto sit porticus, et tamen uno
 semodio scobis haec emendat seruulus unus:
 illud non agitas, ut sanctam filius omni
 aspiciat sine labe domum uitioque carentem?
 gratum est quod patriae ciuem populoque dedisti, 70
 si facis ut patriae sit idoneus, utilis agris,

48 ne *Ruperti*: nec *codd.* pueri *codd.*: teneros *Courtney*: parui *conj. Markland*

49 obstet *PU*: obstat *K*: obsistet *T*: obsistat *Φ*

51 quandoque *P*: quandoquidem *Φ*

52 quoque *PFTUΣ*: tibi *Φ* qui *PTU*: cum *Φ*

54–55 *del. Guyet*

55 ac *codd.*: aut *PKV*

59 cessabit *Φ*: cessaret *U*: cessarit *Housman*

61 descendat *codd.*: descendet *L* descendit *OZ*

62 leue *PSAU*: lauet *Φ*

63 furit *PSA*: fremat *Φ*

66 ne *PSΦ*: neu *P, Housman*

67 scobis *PSOUΣ*: scrobis *Φ*. emendat *codd.*: emundat *UL*

71 patriae *ΦΣ*: patria *PS*: ciuis *Housman*: paci *Nisbet*. agris *codd.*: armis *Nisbet*

immoral, do not fail to take account of the boy's immature years,
 but let an infant son stop you from doing wrong.
 For if he ends up doing something which merits the censor's wrath, 50
 and when he proves that he is like you not just in his body
 and facial appearance, but that he is also the son of your
 character, a lad who
 commits worse crimes in every case for following in your
 footsteps,
 then I expect you will chide him and tell him off with ear-splitting
 yelling – and then later on you will set about changing your will. 55
 What's with the knit brow and fatherly outspokenness,
 when you do worse things yourself as a old man? It's your
 head which is empty of brains
 and has been needing a windy cupping-glass for a long time.
 If a guest is coming, none of your staff will get any rest.
 'Sweep the floor, show off the gleaming columns, 60
 get that dried-up spider down with all its web.
 This man must wipe the smooth silver, another man is to do
 the embossed vessels.'
 The master's voice rages wildly as he stands over them,
 stick in hand.
 So you are miserable and anxious in case the hallway is soiled
 with dog shit
 and offends the eyes of your friend on his arrival, 65
 in case the colonnade is drenched with mud – and yet just
 one little
 slave could sort this all out with one half-measure of sawdust:
 but you do not stir yourself to make sure that your son should see
 your house as virtuous, lacking any moral stain and free of vice?
 It is praiseworthy that you have produced a citizen for the
 fatherland and the people, 70
 so long as you make him qualified for the state, useful in the fields

utilis et bellorum et pacis rebus agendis.
 plurimum enim intererit quibus artibus et quibus hunc tu
 moribus instituas. serpente ciconia pullos
 nutrit et inuenta per deuia rura lacerta: 75
 illi eadem sumptis quaerunt animalia pinnis.
 uoltur iumento et canibus crucibusque relictis
 ad fetus properat partemque cadaueris adfert:
 hic est ergo cibus magni quoque uolturis et se
 pascentis, propria cum iam facit arbore nidos. 80
 sed leporem aut capream famulae Iouis et generosae
 in saltu uenantur aues, hinc praeda cubili
 ponitur: inde autem cum se matura leuauit
 progenies stimulante fame festinat ad illam
 quam primum praedam rupto gustauerat ouo. 85
 aedificator erat Caetronius et modo curuo
 litore Caietae, summa nunc Tiburis arce,
 nunc Praenestinis in montibus alta parabat
 culmina uillarum Graecis longeque petitis
 marmoribus uincens Fortunae atque Herculis aedem, 90
 ut spado uincebat Capitolia nostra Posides.
 dum sic ergo habitat Caetronius, inminuit rem,
 fregit opes, nec parua tamen mensura relictæ
 partis erat. totam hanc turbauit filius amens,
 dum meliore nouas attollit marmore uillas. 95
 quidam sortiti metuentem sabbata patrem
 nil praeter nubes et caeli numen adorant,
 nec distare putant humana carne suillam,
 qua pater abstinuit, mox et praepudia ponunt;
 Romanas autem soliti contemnere leges 100
 Iudaicum ediscunt et seruant ac metuunt ius,

82 hinc *P*: tum *A*: tunc *Φ*: haec *Lachmann*

83 leuauit *T Prisc. Gramm. II. 243.16*: leuaret *P*: leuabit *Φ*: leuarit *recentiores*

85 gustauerat *PAKLITZ*: gustauerit *FGHOU Prisc.*

86 Caetronius *Φ*: cretonius *P*: ceronius *A*

92 ergo habitat *codd.*: aedificat *Weidner*: || Caetronius *Φ*: cetonius *P*: ceronius *A*

97 caeli *codd.*: cilli *Lemoyne*: || numen *codd.*: lumen *Scaliger*: nomen *Σ Lucani*

and useful in engaging in the business of war and peace.
 What will make the greatest difference is the sort of skills
 and behaviour

you train him in. The stork feeds her chicks on a snake
 and on the lizard she finds throughout the secluded countryside: 75
 those chicks go looking for the same animals when they have
 taken up their wings.

The vulture quits the cattle, the dogs and the crucifixions
 and rushes to her offspring, bringing a chunk of a dead body:
 for this is also the food of the adult vulture when it feeds itself
 when is at the stage of making a nest in its own tree. 80

The noble birds which are the servants of Jupiter go hunting for
 hare or deer in the glades – that's where the prey come from
 which is served up
 in the eyrie; in turn, when the young are grown-up and have flown
 the nest

as hunger spurs them on they rush after that same prey
 which they had first tasted when their egg was smashed open. 85

Caetronius was a builder, now on the rounded
 shorelines of Caieta, now on the topmost refuge of Tibur,
 now in the hills of Praeneste putting up lofty
 gabled villas with marble both Greek and sourced far afield
 and outdoing both the temple of Fortune and that of Hercules, 90
 just as the eunuch Posides outdid our Capitol.

As Caetronius maintained this sort of housing, he reduced
 his substance,

he broke up his fortune – but he still left behind no small amount
 of an estate. His crazy son frittered all that away
 in the course of putting up new villas with even better marble. 95

Some sons are given a father who venerates the sabbath
 and worship nothing but the clouds and the sky-god,
 thinking that there is no distinction between human flesh
 and pork

which father abstained from – and in due course they cast off
 their foreskins.

They tend to despise Roman laws 100
 and learn, keep and respect the Jewish code of law –

tradidit arcano quodcumque uolumine Moyses:
 non monstrare uias eadem nisi sacra colenti,
 quaesitum ad fontem solos deducere uerpos.
 sed pater in causa, cui septima quaeque fuit lux 105
 ignaua et partem uitae non attigit ullam.
 sponte tamen iuuenes imitantur cetera, solam
 inuiti quoque auaritiam exercere iubentur.
 fallit enim uitium specie uirtutis et umbra,
 cum sit triste habitu uultuque et ueste seuerum, 110
 nec dubie tamquam frugi laudetur auarus,
 tamquam parcus homo et rerum tutela suarum
 certa magis quam si fortunas seruet easdem
 Hesperidum serpens aut Ponticus. adde quod hunc de
 quo loquor egregium populus putat adquirendi 115
 artificem; quippe his crescunt patrimonia fabris
 sed crescunt quocumque modo maioraque fiunt
 incude adsidua semperque ardente camino.
 et pater ergo animi felices credit auaros
 qui miratur opes, qui nulla exempla beati 120
 pauperis esse putat; iuuenes hortatur ut illa
 ire uia pergant et eidem incumbere sectae.
 sunt quaedam uitiorum elementa, his protinus illos
 inbuit et cogit minimas ediscere sordes;
 mox adquirendi docet insatiabile uotum. 125

103–4 *post 100 collocabat Scaliger*

111 laudetur *PU*: laudatur Φ

115 adquirendi *PU*: atque uerendi Φ

117 *del. Jahn*

119 *damnauit Housman* || et *codd.*: hic *Guyet*: qui *Courtney* | felices Φ : felices
HTU

120 qui qui *codd.*: cum...cum *Weidner* | miratur *P*: mirantur Φ | qui *PU*: hi Φ

121 putat *PKU*: putant Φ | iuuenes *codd.*: iuuenesque *Housman* | hortatur *P* Φ :
 hortantur *LOZ* | illa *PFU*: illam Φ *Prisc.*

122 uia *PFU*: uiam Φ *Prisc.* | pergant Φ *Prisc.*: peragant *P*

123 illos *codd.*: illis *P*: ille *Weidner*

124 minimas *PAFGU*: nimias Φ | ediscere *codd.*: educere *Scholte*

125 *damnauit Jahn*

whatever Moses handed down to them in his mystical book:
 not to give directions to anyone not respecting the same
 sacred rites
 and to lead only the circumcised to the spring they are looking for.
 The father is to blame, the man for whom every seventh day
 is one of 105
 sloth, with no contact with any other part of his life.
 Young men imitate other vices of their own accord. It's only
 avarice which they are ordered to practise even if they
 do not want to.
 The reason? It's a con, this vice which has the semblance
 and the shadow of a virtue.
 Because it is miserable in outfit, looks and dresses austere 110
 and as the miser is unanimously praised as if he were a man
 of thrift
 like a frugal man, one who keeps guard over his property
 with a surer hand than if those same riches were being
 protected by
 the dragon of the Hesperides or the one of Pontus. Furthermore,
 people think
 that this man I am speaking of is a consummate creator of wealth: 115
 Estates grow in the hands of this kind of worker –
 they grow in any way possible and get bigger –
 as the anvil is never at rest and the forge chimney is always
 ablaze.
 This is how a father thinks that misers are happy in spirit.
 Anyone who admires money, who thinks that there are no cases 120
 of the happy poor man – he encourages the young men to go
 down that path and apply themselves to that code of behaviour.
 Vices have some basic elements: he at once baptises these
 kids with these
 and forces them to master their child's portion of shabbiness.
 next he teaches them an unquenchable longing for riches. 125

seruorum uentres modio castigat iniquo
 ipse quoque esuriens, neque enim omnia sustinet umquam
 mucida caerulei panis consumere frustra,
 hesternum solitus medio seruare minutal
 Septembri nec non differre in tempora cenae 130
 alterius conchem aestiuam cum parte lacerti
 signatam uel dimidio putrique siluro
 filaque sectiui numerata includere porri.
 inuitatus ad haec aliquis de ponte negabit.
 sed quo diuitias haec per tormenta coactas, 135
 cum furor haut dubius, cum sit manifesta phrenesis,
 ut locuples moriaris, egentis uiuere fato?
 interea, pleno cum turget sacculus ore,
 crescit amor nummi quantum ipsa pecunia creuit,
 et minus hanc optat qui non habet. ergo paratur 140
 altera uilla tibi, cum rus non sufficit unum
 et proferre libet finis maiorque uidetur
 et melior uicina seges; mercaris et hanc et
 arbusta et densa montem qui canet oliua.
 quorum si pretio dominus non uincitur ullo, 145
 nocte boues macri lassoque famelica collo
 iumenta ad uiridis huius mittentur aristas
 nec prius inde domum quam tota noualia saeuos
 in uentres abeant, ut credas falcibus actum.
 dicere uix possis quam multi talia plorent 150
 et quot uenales iniuria fecerit agros.

127 neque *PΦ*: nec *U*

128 mucida *codd.*: omnia *Schurzfleisch*: frustra *codd.*: frustra *PFGU*

131 conchem *PSUΣ*: concham *Φ* | aestiuam *PAU*: aestiui *Φ*

134 negabit *Φ*: negauit *PS*: negabat *O*

139 creuit *FTU*: crescit *Φ*

141 cum...non...unum *codd.*: cui...nunc...unum? *Weidner*

144 oliua *codd.*: oliui *G*

145 pretio dominus *PU*: dominus pretio *Φ*

147 mittentur *PATU*: mittuntur *Φ*

149 abeant *A*: habeant *PΦ*

150–151 *damnauit Heinrich*

He chastises the slaves' stomachs with unfair rations
 and even goes hungry himself, as he cannot bear ever to eat up
 all the mouldy lumps of blue-green bread.
 He always keeps yesterday's mince in the middle of
 September, and what's more in summer he stores up for the next
 dinner 130
 his beans, locked up with a chunk of
 mackerel or half a rotten catfish
 and he counts the shreds of chopped leek before locking
 them away.
 Anyone invited to this meal will refuse – even a beggar from
 the bridge.
 But what is the point of money gathered by this sort of torments? 135
 Is it not manifest madness, or obvious insanity
 to live like a poor man must so you can die rich?
 In the meantime, when your purse swells with its mouth full,
 the love of cash grows as much as the money has grown,
 and the man who has none wants it less. That is how another 140
 villa is acquired for you, since one country pile is not enough
 and it is nice to extend your boundaries. Next-door's
 cornfield looks
 bigger and better, so you buy this one too, along with
 the vineyards and a mountain which is grey with packed olive-trees.
 If their owner cannot be won over by any amount of money 145
 then one night some thin cattle, famished pack beasts with
 exhausted necks, will be sent into this man's lush corn
 and will not come home again until all his fields
 move into their savage bellies, making it look as if the deed
 had been done with scythes.
 You would not easily be able to say how many people make
 this sort of complaint 150
 and how many estates go on the market because wrongdoing
 forces them to.

sed qui sermones, quam foede bucina famae!
 ‘quid nocet haec?’ inquit ‘tunicam mihi malo lupini
 quam si me toto laudet uicinia pago
 exigui ruris paucissima farra secantem.’ 155
 scilicet et morbis et debilitate carebis
 et luctum et curam effugies, et tempora uitae
 longa tibi posthac fato meliore dabuntur,
 si tantum culti solus possederis agri
 quantum sub Tatio populus Romanus arabat. 160
 mox etiam fractis aetate ac Punica passis
 proelia uel Pyrrhum inmanem gladiosque Molossos
 tandem pro multis uix iugera bina dabantur
 uulneribus; merces haec sanguinis atque laboris
 nulli uisa umquam meritis minor aut ingratae 165
 curta fides patriae. saturabat glebula talis
 patrem ipsum turbamque casae, qua feta iacebat
 uxor et infantes ludebant quattuor, unus
 uernula, tres domini; sed magnis fratribus horum
 a scrobe uel sulco redeuntibus altera cena 170
 amplior et grandes fumabant pultibus ollae.
 nunc modus hic agri nostro non sufficit horto.
 inde fere scelerum causae, nec plura uenena
 miscuit aut ferro grassatur saepius ullum
 humanae mentis uitium quam saeua cupido 175
 inmodici census. nam diues qui fieri uolt,
 et cito uolt fieri; sed quae reuerentia legum,
 quis metus aut pudor est umquam properantis auari?
 ‘uiuete contenti casulis et collibus istis,

152 foede *PGH*: foedae Φ : foeda ea *Döderlein*

153 haec *PFGU*: hoc Φ : om. *T*

158 posthac *PA*: post haec Φ

162 gladiosque Molossos *codd.*: gelidosque Molossos *Scaliger*

164 haec *P*: ea Φ

165 nulli *FU, Heinrich*: nullis *PS* Φ | aut *PFOU*: haud Φ

175 saeua *mss.*: caeca *coni. Markland*

176 inmodici *PA*: indomiti Φ

178 metus *mss.*: modus *Herelius*

But what of the gossip? How repellent is the trumpeting of
nasty rumours!

‘What harm does that do?’ he replies. ‘I prefer to hang onto
my lupin pod

than to have the neighbourhood in the whole village praise me
as the man who harvests the pathetic grain of a tiny estate.’ 155

You will of course be free from diseases and infirmity,

you will escape grief and anxiety, and long life

will be granted you with better fortune after this,

if you only gain possession of as much farm-land in sole
ownership

as the Roman people used to plough when Tatius was king. 160

In later times men who were broken by age, who had endured
Punic

battles, the brutal Pyrrhus and the Molossian swords

finally were given as reward for their many injuries barely half
a hectar of land.

This payment for their blood and toil never

seemed to any of them less than they deserved or insufficient 165

loyalty from a thankless state. A little clump of earth like
that would overface

the father himself and the mob in his cottage, where lay
his pregnant

wife and children playing: four in all – one of them a slave

born at home, three of them masters. Their big brothers

would come home from ditch or furrow, and a second meal 170

bigger than the first met them, and massive pots smoked

with porridge.

These days this allotment of land is not enough for our garden.

That is often the cause of crime, and no disorder of the

human mind concocts more poisons or wields the knife

on the streets more often than the brutal lust for 175

limitless wealth. For the man who wants to get rich

wants to get rich quickly. But what respect for the laws,

what apprehension or decency do you ever find in an impatient
miser?

‘Live contented with small cottages and those hills,

o pueri,' Marsus dicebat et Hernicus olim 180
 Vestinusque senex, 'panem quaeramus aratro,
 qui satis est mensis: laudant hoc numina ruris,
 quorum ope et auxilio gratae post munus aristae
 contingunt homini ueteris fastidia quercus.
 nil uetitum fecisse uolet, quem non pudet alto 185
 per glaciem perone tegi, qui sum mouet euros
 pellibus inuersis: peregrina ignotaque nobis
 ad scelus atque nefas, quaecumque est, purpura ducit.'
 haec illi ueteres praecepta minoribus; at nunc
 post finem autumnus media de nocte supinum 190
 clamosus iuuenem pater excitat: 'accipe ceras,
 scribe, puer, uigila, causas age, perlege rubras
 maiorum leges; aut uitem posce libello,
 sed caput intactum buxo narisque pilosas
 adnotet et grandes miretur Laelius alas; 195
 dirue Maurorum attegias, castella Brigantum,
 ut locupletem aquilam tibi sexagesimus annus
 adferat; aut, longos castrorum ferre labores
 si piget et trepidum soluunt tibi cornua uentrem
 cum lituis audita, pares quod uendere possis 200
 pluris dimidio, nec te fastidia mercis
 ullius subeant ablegandae Tiberim ultra,
 neu credas ponendum aliquid discriminis inter
 unguenta et corium: lucri bonus est odor ex re
 qualibet. illa tuo sententia semper in ore 205

- 184 homini *PATU*: homines Φ
 192 uigila *codd*: uigil ac *AGFLZ*
 194 sed *codd*: nam *Weidner*
 198 aut *codd*: at *AGHKV*
 199 trepidum *P*: trepido Φ

boys': the old man from the Marsi, the Hernici and the Vestini
 would say this long ago. 'Let's get our bread with the plough,
 bread
 enough for the tables. This is what the gods of the countryside
 applaud
 and it was by their aid and assistance that – after the gift
 of the welcome corn-ear –
 men picked up a distate for the old acorn.
 That man will have no urge to commit what is forbidden,
 if he is not embarrassed 185
 to protect himself in the ice with high boots, who deflects
 the east winds
 with his skins turned inside-out: purple cloth, whatever it is,
 foreign and strange to us, leads us to crime and wickedness.'
 These are the teachings which those men of old handed
 to the young, but these days
 once autumn has ended, when the son is flat on his back
 in the middle of the night 190
 his barking father wakes up the young man: 'get your tablets,
 write, boy, do not fall asleep, prepare lawsuits, study closely
 the red-lettered
 laws of our ancestors: or else go after the vine-staff with
 a letter of petition,
 and let Laelius notice your head (untouched by the comb)
 and hairy nostrils;
 make sure he admires your broad shoulders; 195
 pull down the Moors' huts, the forts of the Brigantes
 so that your sixtieth year will bring you the eagle of riches:
 otherwise, if you find the enduring of lengthy toil in army camps
 unappealing, and if the horns liquefy your nervous bowel
 when heard with the trumpets, then get hold of what you can sell 200
 with a profit of 50%. Don't turn your nose up at any goods
 which need to be moved the other side of the Tiber,
 and don't go thinking there is any distinction between
 perfumes and tanned hide: profit has a good smell, whatever
 it comes from. This is the mantra which should never leave
 your lips, 205

uersetur dis atque ipso Ioue digna poeta:
 “unde habeas quaerit nemo, sed oportet habere.”
 [hoc monstrant uetulae pueris repentibus assae,
 hoc discunt omnes ante alpha et beta puellae.]
 talibus instantem monitis quemcumque parentem 210
 sic possem adfari: ‘dic, o uanissime, quis te
 festinare iubet? meliorem praesto magistro
 discipulum. securus abi: uinceris, ut Aiax
 praeteriit Telamonem, ut Pelea uicit Achilles.
 parcendum est teneris; nondum impleuere medullas 215
 maturae mala nequitiae. cum ponere barbam
 coeperit et longi mucronem admittere cultri,
 falsus erit testis, uendet periuria summa
 exigua et Cereris tangens aramque pedemque.
 elatam iam crede nurum, si limina uestra 220
 mortifera cum dote subit. quibus illa premetur
 per somnum digitis! nam quae terraque marique
 adquirenda putas breuior uia conferet illi;
 nullus enim magni sceleris labor. “haec ego numquam
 mandauit” dices olim “nec talia suasi.” 225
 mentis causa malae tamen est et origo penes te.
 nam quisquis magni census praecepit amorem
 et laeuo monitu pueros producit auaros
 [quippe et per fraudes patrimonia conduplicari]
 dat libertatem et totas effundit habenas 230
 curriculo; quem si reuoces, subsistere nescit

206 poeta *PS*: poetae Φ

208–9 *del. Jahn.*

208 uetulae pueris *P*: pueris uetulae Φ repentibus *Sang*: petentibus *F*:
 repetentibus *U*: poscentibus Φ assae *codd.*: assem *FHKLU*

216 ponere *Markland*: pectere *codd.*

217 longi Φ : longae *P*

218 falsus erit testis *codd.*: falsus testis erit *O*.

219 pedemque *codd.*: facemque *Scholte*

223 adquirenda *codd.*: anquirenda *Stewecheius*

229 *om. Φ* . quippe et *Amyx*: et qui *P*

one worthy of the gods and even of Jupiter himself

(if he were a poet):

‘nobody is asking where you got it from, but get it you must.’

(Old dry-nurses point this out to kids still learning to walk,

this is what all girls learn before they do their ABC.)

I could say to a parent who was pushing

210

this sort of advice: ‘tell me, you fatuous fool, who is

telling you to hurry? Take it from me, the pupil has better

prospects

than his teacher. Go away and stop worrying. You will

be outclassed, like Ajax

outclassed Telamon, like Achilles topped Peleus.

Go easy on the young. They have not yet had their bone-marrow

filled with

215

the evils of adult criminality. When he has started to have

his beard cut

and to let the long knife-blade get to it, then

he will be a lying witness, he will sell his false oaths for a tiny

sum, even when he is touching the altar and the foot

of the statue of Ceres.

Regard any daughter-in-law as already dead if she comes

over your

220

threshold with a fatal dowry. What fingers will he use

to strangle her

as she sleeps! Whatever you think is worth finding over land

and by sea –

a shorter route will bring him all that to him.

For there is no hard work involved in large-scale crime.

‘I never told him to do

these things’ you will say one day ‘nor did I urge such a course.’

225

The cause and the source of his insanity lies with you.

Whoever has drilled a love of great wealth into them

with his twisted guidance – he brings up miserly children,

since he gives them the freedom to get their inheritance doubled

by fraud

and lets slip the reins on their chariot totally.

230

If you call him back he has not learned how to stop

et te contempto rapitur metisque relictis.
 nemo satis credit tantum delinquere quantum
 permittas: adeo indulgent sibi latius ipsi.
 cum dicis iuueni stultum qui donet amico, 235
 qui paupertatem leuet attollatque propinqui,
 et spoliare doces et circumscribere et omni
 crimine diuitias adquirere, quarum amor in te
 quantus erat patriae Deciorum in pectore, quantum
 dilexit Thebas, si Graecia uera, Menoeceus, 240
 in quorum sulcis legiones dentibus anguis
 cum clipeis nascuntur et horrida bella capessunt
 continuo, tamquam et tubicen surrexerit una.
 ergo ignem, cuius scintillas ipse dedisti,
 flagrantem late et rapientem cuncta uidebis. 245
 nec tibi parceretur misero, trepidumque magistrum
 in cauea magno fremitu leo tollet alumnus.
 nota mathematicis genesis tua, sed graue tardas
 expectare colus: morieris stamine nondum
 abrupto. iam nunc obstas et uota moraris, 250
 iam torquet iuuenem longa et ceruina senectus.
 ocius Archigenen quaere atque eme quod Mithridates
 composuit: si uis aliam decerpere ficum
 atque alias tractare rosas, medicamen habendum est,
 sorbere ante cibum quod debeat et pater et rex.' 255

232 metis Φ : meritis *PA*

234 indulgent ipsi *mss*: indulget ipse *U*

241–3 *uersus damnauerunt Knoche, Markland*

245 late et *PΦ*: et late *AHK*

247 in cauea *P*: in caueam Φ

248 graue *mss*: caue *Scholte*

255 debeat *mss*: debeant *PA*. et...et...*Ambr., Sang., aut...aut...Φ*: et...ut
Housman

and just races on, ignoring you and leaving the turning-posts
well behind.

Nobody thinks he is breaking the rules enough if he only
does so as much as

you let him: people give themselves much more latitude.

When you tell a young man that it is a stupid thing to give
to a friend,

235

to lighten a relative's poverty and put him back on his feet,
you are then teaching him to rob, to defraud and to use

all manner of

crime to acquire wealth. You have as much love of wealth
in you as

there was love of the fatherland in the heart of the Decii,
as much as

Menoceus loved Thebes (if Greece is not lying).

240

In Theban furrows legions were born from the dragon's teeth
with their shields already on them, and they engage

in dreadful battles

at once, as if the trumpet-player had risen up with them.

The result is that you will see the fire, whose sparks you
provided for him personally,

blazing over a wide area and destroying everything.

245

Nor will any leniency be shown to you, you pathetic creature,
and the lion cub

will murder the trembling tamer with a massive roar in his
own den.

Your horoscope is well known to astrologers, but it is boring
to wait for

the slow spindles. You will die before the thread is
snapped off. You are already in his way, you are delaying

his hopes for the future

250

and your long and stag-like old age is already torturing
the young man.

Go and find Archigenes, quickly, and buy the stuff that Mithridates
concocted. If you want to pick another fig

and handle other roses, then you need to have the drug

which both the father and the king must swallow before eating.

255

monstro uoluptatem egregiam, cui nulla theatra,
 nulla aequare queas praetoris pulpita lauti,
 si spectes quanto capitis discrimine constant
 incrementa domus, aerata multus in arca
 fiscus et ad uigilem ponendi Castora nummi, 260
 ex quo Mars Ultor galeam quoque perdidit et res
 non potuit seruare suas. ergo omnia Florae
 et Cereris licet et Cybeles aulaea relinquo:
 tanto maiores humana negotia ludi.
 an magis oblectant animum iactata petauro 265
 corpora quique solet rectum descendere funem
 quam tu, Corycia semper qui puppe moraris
 atque habitas, coro semper tollendus et austro,
 perditus ac uilis sacci mercator olentis,
 qui gaudes pingue antiquae de litore Cretae 270
 passum et municipes Iouis aduexisse lagonas?
 hic tamen ancipiti figens uestigia planta
 uictum illa mercede parat, brumamque famemque
 illa reste cauet: tu propter mille talenta
 et centum uillas temerarius. aspice portus 275
 et plenum magnis trabibus mare: plus hominum est iam
 in pelago. ueniet classis quocumque uocari
 spes lucri, nec Carpathium Gaetulaque tantum
 aequora transiliet, sed longe Calpe relictas
 audiet Herculeo stridentem gurgite solem. 280
 grande operae pretium est, ut tenso folle reuerti
 inde domum possis tumidaque superbus aluta,
 Oceani monstra et iuuenes uidisse marinos.

264 ludi *mss*: ludis *U*

265 oblectant *mss*: oblectent *Markland*

269 uersum *deleuit Hermann*. ac uilis *PU*: articulis *Nisbet*: ac siculis *Φ*,
Housman: axiculis *Leo*.

270 pingue *PAFTU*, *Ambr.*: pingui *Φ*

271 aduexisse *PΦ*: adduxisse *Ambr.*: lagonas *P* lagoenas *Φ*

272 figens *mss*: fingens *KL*

ante 283 uersum excidissee putauit *Markland*

I am showing you outstanding entertainment here. You could
 not match it
 in any theatres or in the podia of the posh praetor:
 if you just watch how much people risk their lives for –
 increases to their estate, the fat bag of cash in the bronze-lined
 money chest
 and the money which needs to be put under Castor's watchful eye 260
 ever since Avenging Mars lost even his helmet and could not
 look after
 his own belongings. So you may leave aside all the
 stage-curtains of Flora, Ceres and Cybele:
 human interactions make so much better entertainment.
 Or is the heart more delighted by bodies thrown up from a 265
 springboard and a man who makes a living walking down
 a taut rope
 rather than you on your Corycian boat, always hanging about
 and even
 living there, always liable to be chucked around by winds
 from north-west and south,
 desperate and abject, a trader of the stinking sack
 who is overjoyed to have imported sticky raisin-wine from
 the shores of ancient 270
 Crete along with flagons which are compatriots of Jupiter?
He places his steps with hesitant foot and gets
 his livelihood with that trade, and dodges cold and hunger
 with that rope of his: while you risk everything for a thousand
 talents and a hundred country-houses. Look at the ports 275
 and the sea, filled with giant vessels. By now the majority
 of the human race is
 on the sea. A fleet will come to wherever the hope of gain
 calls it, it will leap over not just the Carpathian and Gaetulan
 seas but will leave Gibraltar far behind and
 hear the sun hissing in Hercules' flood. 280
 It is ample reward for your hard work to be able to go back home
 with a
 swollen sack, proud that your flaccid leather is now tumescent,
 and to have seen the wonders of the Ocean and the young men
 of the sea.

non unus mentes agitat furor. ille sororis
 in manibus uoltu Eumenidum terretur et igni, 285
 hic boue percusso mugire Agamemnona credit
 aut Ithacum. parcat tunicis licet atque lacernis,
 curatoris eget qui nauem mercibus implet
 ad summum latus et tabula distinguitur unda,
 cum sit causa mali tanti et discriminis huius 290
 concisum argentum in titulos faciesque minutas.
 occurrunt nubes et fulgura: 'soluite funem'
 frumenti dominus clamat piperisue coempti,
 'nil color hic caeli, nil fascia nigra minatur;
 aestiuum tonat.' infelix hac forsitan ipsa 295
 nocte cadet fractis trabibus fluctuque premetur
 obrutus et zonam laeua morsuque tenebit.
 sed cuius uotis modo non suffecerat aurum
 quod Tagus et rutila uoluit Pactolus harena,
 frigida sufficient uelantes inguina panni 300
 exiguusque cibus, mersa rate naufragus assem
 dum rogat et picta se tempestate tuetur.
 tantis parta malis cura maiore metuque
 seruantur: misera est magni custodia census.
 dispositis praediues amis uigilare cohortem 305
 seruorum noctu Licinus iubet, attonitus pro
 electro signisque suis Phrygiaque columna
 atque ebore et lata testudine. dolia nudi

285 terretur *mss*: torretur *PLOZ*

287 lacernis *PFLOTU*: lacertis Φ

289 distinguitur *mss*: defenditur *Guyet*: unda *AGOUP* uda *FLZ* una *HT*

293 piperisue *PAGTU* piperisque Φ : coempti *mss*: coemptor *A Prisc*.

295 hac *U*: ac *P*: at Φ : an *FOZ*

296 cadet Φ : cadit *PA*

297 morsuque *mss*. morsuue *Heinrich*

It not just one sort of madness which stirs up men's minds.

That man, in the hands
of his sister, is terrified by the face and the fire of the Furies, 285
while this one has battered a bull and thinks it is Agamemnon
or the Ithacan who

is the one lowing. He might spare his tunics and his cloaks,
but anyone
who fills his ship with merchandise right up to the top of the sides,
who is kept apart from the waves by a plank – that man needs
a guardian.

The reason for so much trouble, for this critical venture 290
is silver cut up to show wording and tiny pictures.

Clouds and thunderbolts come rushing over: 'untie
the mooring rope'

shouts out the master of the corn and the pepper he has bought.
'This colour of the sky is nothing, the black strip of cloud
is nothing to worry us.

It's summer thunder.' This very night perhaps this unhappy
man will 295
fall from his shattered beams and be swallowed up and engulfed
in the waves

clinging on to his money-belt with his left hand and his teeth.

Not so long ago gold was not enough to satisfy his desires,
the gold

which is rolled down the Tagus and Pactolus with its red sand:
now he will be happy with rags covering up his ice-cold crotch 300
and a bit of food. His ship is sunk, he's a castaway begging for
pennies and keeping himself alive by doing paintings of the storm.
Things which have needed so much trouble to procure are
protected with greater

unease and anxiety. Keeping guard over great wealth is a dismal
process.

Licinus the plutocrat stations his fire-buckets and orders a cohort 305
of slaves to stay up all night. He's scared stiff about his
amber and his statues, his Phrygian columns,
along with this ivory and his plated tortoise-shell. The pots
of a naked

non ardent Cynici; si fregeris, altera fiet
 cras domus atque eadem plumbo commissa manebit. 310
 sensit Alexander, testa cum uidit in illa
 magnum habitatorem, quanto felicior hic qui
 nil cuperet quam qui totum sibi posceret orbem
 passurus gestis aequanda pericula rebus.
 nullum numen habes, si sit prudentia: nos te, 315
 nos facimus, Fortuna, deam. mensura tamen quae
 sufficiat census, si quis me consulat, edam:
 in quantum sitis atque fames et frigora poscunt,
 quantum, Epicure, tibi paruis suffecit in hortis,
 quantum Socratici ceperunt ante penates; 320
 numquam aliud natura, aliud sapientia dicit.
 acribus exemplis uideor te cludere? misce
 ergo aliquid nostris de moribus, effice summam
 bis septem ordinibus quam lex dignatur Othonis.
 haec quoque si rugam trahit extenditque labellum, 325
 sume duos equites, fac tertia quadringenta.
 si nondum impleui gremium, si panditur ultra,
 nec Croesi fortuna umquam nec Persica regna
 sufficient animo nec diuitiae Narcissi,
 indulsit Caesar cui Claudius omnia, cuius 330
 paruit imperiis uxorem occidere iussus.

310 atque *mss*: aut *AGU* ut *Ambr*.

315–16 deletat *Guyet*: cf. 10.365–6. habes *PΦ* abest *mss*.

316 nos *PΦ*: te *AG*

321 dicit *mss*: dicet *FLZ*

325 trahit extenditque *mss*: trahis extendisque *F*

330–331 deleuit *Herwerden*

Cynic do not burn. If you break one, another home for him
to live in will be
made tomorrow – or the same one will last longer, sealed up
with lead. 310

Alexander realised, when he saw in that pot
its great dweller, how much happier this man was who
had no desires at all than the man who demanded the whole
world for himself,
who would suffer dangers on the same scale as his achievements.
You have no divine power, provided there is forethought:
it is we who 315

make you a goddess, Fortune. If anyone asks my advice,
I will tell them
what amount of wealth is enough:
just enough as thirst, hunger and cold demand of you,
as much as was enough for you, Epicurus, in your little gardens,
and as much as the home of Socrates contained. 320

It is never the case that Nature says one thing and philosophy
another.
Do you think I am cramping you with models which are harsh?
If so, add in
something from our own culture and create the amount
which Otho's law thinks right for the fourteen rows of seats.
If this also wrinkles your brow and pushes out your lip 325
then take two knights – make that three lots of 400,000.
If I have still not filled your lap with that, if it gapes wider still,
then neither the riches of Croesus nor the kingdoms of Persia
will ever
satisfy your heart – nor the wealth of Narcissus, the man
to whom 330

Claudius Caesar gave everything he wanted, and whose
commands he obeyed when he was ordered to kill his wife.